

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2405

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ASMARA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ECON, EAID, ET, US

SUBJ: BRIEFING ON "DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION"

CAMPAIGN

1. CHARGE' ATTENDED AT NOON DECEMBER 20 ONE OF THE BRIEFING SESSIONS WHICH DIFFERENT OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GAVE FOR REGIONAL GROUPS OF THE AMBASSADORS AND CHARGESIN ADDIS ON THE "DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION" CAMPAIGN WHICH OPENS ON DECEMBER 21. THE PRINCIPAL POINTS WHICH EMERGED FROM THIS MEETING WERE THE FOLLOWING.

2. OF THE 60,000 UNIVERSITY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE CAMPAIGN, 25,000 WILL COME FROM ADDIS. THE BULK OF THOSE COMING FROM ADDIS WILL GO TO WOLLO PROVINCE BECAUSE OF THE GREAT NEED THERE FOR A DROUGHT REHABILITATION CAMPAIGN. THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE TO EXPLAIN THE PHILOSOPHY OF ETHIOPIA TIKDEM, TO INCULCATE SELF-RELIANCE, TO HELP WITH

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DROUGHT REHABILITATION, TO PROMOTE LITERACY, TO IMPROVE

HEALTH AND SANITATION, AND TO FORWARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THE CAMPAIGN IS MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO GET THE STUDENTS OUT OF TOWN. THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE CAMPAIGN IS THAT STUDENTS WHOSE EDUCATION IS FINANCED BY THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE MUST NOW CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE.

4. THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE RUN OUT OF SIX REGIONAL CENTERS, 56 DISTRICT CENTERS, AND 500 STATIONS. IT WILL COVER ALL PARTS OF ETHIOPIA. EACH STUDENT GROUP WILL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF SOME MILITARY PERSONNEL AND SOME CIVIL TECHNICIANS. SINCE ALL OF ETHIOPIA IS THE NATIVE LAND OF THE STUDENTS, THEIR GEOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENTS TO THE FIELD HAVE BEEN MADE WITH NO REGARD TO TRIBAL, LINGUISTIC OR RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES.

5. THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT MISTAKES WILL BE MADE IN SUCH A NOVEL UNDERTAKING, BUT IT IS NOT AFRAID TO LEARN FROM ITS MISTAKES.

6. THE STUDENTS HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL TRAINING REGARDING THE INSTRUCTION FOR WHICH THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE. HOWEVER THE INSTRUCTION MANUALS ARE NOW READY AND THE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO STUDY THESE AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE IN THE FIELD. THE LOCAL POPULATIONS IN AREAS WHERE THE STUDENT CENTERS WILL BE LOCATED HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE APPROACHING CAMPAIGN AND HAVE RESPONDED WITH ENTHUSIASM.

7. THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN WILL RUN UNTIL NEXT SEPTEMBER. AN ASSESSMENT OF ITS RESULTS WILL LEAD TO DECISIONS REGARDING FUTURE CAMPAIGNS OF THIS NATURE.

8. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BELIEVES THAT THE UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE "DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION" CAMPAIGN. AT A LATER STAGE THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS FOR MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT. FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PROGRAMS TO WHICH THEY WILL BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE WILL NOT BE ENTIRELY NEW PROGRAMS BUT WILL RATHER FIT INTO THE ALREADY EXISTING DROUGHT REHABILITATION FRAMEWORK.
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